



**Maryland**  
Department of  
the Environment

Wes Moore, Governor  
Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor

Serena McIlwain, Secretary  
Suzanne E. Dorsey, Deputy Secretary  
Adam Ortiz, Deputy Secretary

December 2, 2025

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Baltimore District  
Attn: Ms. Vanessa Campbell  
2 Hopkins Plaza  
Baltimore, MD 21201  
Via email: [vanessa.m.campbell@usace.army.mil](mailto:vanessa.m.campbell@usace.army.mil)

Re: Agency Interest Number: 173604  
Tracking Number: 202261295  
Water Quality Certification Number: 23-WQC-0012 (R1)

Dear Vanessa Campbell:

After examination and consideration of the documents received and evidence in the file and record for the USCG Yard Improvement and dredging project, the Water and Science Administration has determined that the project meets the statutory and regulatory criteria necessary to grant with conditions a modified Water Quality Certification (WQC).

The modified WQC for this project issued by the Maryland Department of the Environment (Department) is attached. Please read and review the WQC for this project to ensure that you understand the limits of the certified project and all of the special and general conditions. The attached WQC is a final agency decision. Any person aggrieved by the Department's decision to issue this WQC may appeal such a decision in accordance with COMAR 26.08.02.10F(4). A request for appeal shall be filed with the Department within 30 days of publication of the final decision in the Maryland Register and specify in writing the reason why the final decision should be reconsidered. A request for appeal shall be submitted to: Secretary of the Environment, Maryland Department of the Environment, 1800 Washington Boulevard, Baltimore, MD 21230. Any request for an appeal does not stay the effectiveness of this WQC.

You should not begin any work until you have obtained all necessary State, local, and federal authorizations. Please do not hesitate to contact me at [danielle.spendiff1@maryland.gov](mailto:danielle.spendiff1@maryland.gov) or 410-537-4023 with any questions.

Sincerely,

Danielle A. Spendiff, Chief  
Regulatory and Customer Service Division



STATE OF MARYLAND  
DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT  
WATER AND SCIENCE ADMINISTRATION  
WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION  
23-WQC-0012 (R1)

ISSUANCE DATE: **September 28, 2023**

REVISED ISSUANCE DATE: **December 2, 2025**

CERTIFICATION HOLDER: **United States Coast Guard  
Facilities Engineering, Coast Guard Yard  
2401 Hawkins Point Road  
Baltimore, MD 21226  
Attn: LT Holly Moore**

PROJECT LOCATION: **Coast Guard Yard  
2401 Hawkins Point Road  
Baltimore, MD 21226  
(Anne Arundel County, Maryland)**

**UNDER AUTHORITY OF SECTION 401 OF THE FEDERAL WATER POLLUTION CONTROL ACT AND ITS AMENDMENTS AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH §9-313 THROUGH §9-323, INCLUSIVE, OF THE ENVIRONMENT ARTICLE, ANNOTATED CODE OF MARYLAND, THE WATER AND SCIENCE ADMINISTRATION (“ADMINISTRATION”) HAS DETERMINED THAT THE REGULATED ACTIVITY DESCRIBED IN THE REQUEST FOR CERTIFICATION OF DREDGING AT THE US COAST GUARD YARD WILL NOT VIOLATE MARYLAND’S WATER QUALITY STANDARDS IF CONDUCTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH ALL TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THIS CERTIFICATION.**

THIS CERTIFICATION DOES NOT RELIEVE THE APPLICANT OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR OBTAINING ANY OTHER APPROVALS, LICENSES, OR PERMITS IN ACCORDANCE WITH FEDERAL, STATE, OR LOCAL REQUIREMENTS AND DOES NOT AUTHORIZE COMMENCEMENT OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT. A COPY OF THIS REQUIRED CERTIFICATION HAS BEEN SENT TO THE US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS (CORPS). THE CERTIFICATION HOLDER SHALL COMPLY WITH THE CONDITIONS LISTED BELOW.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

Tracking Number: 202261295

Agency Interest Number: 173604

The United States Coast Guard (USCG), 2401 Hawkins Point Road, MD 21226 has requested to modify Water Quality Certification (WQC) # 23-WQC-0012 to expand the dredging area and depths originally presented, and to perform up to 100 core borings in Curtis Creek located at latitude 39.207296 and longitude -76.580547. The dredging methods and placement site will not change from what was previously certified. The drilling program is needed to collect geotechnical information and to supplement the 2022 sediment characterization for the

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USCG Yard Improvement and dredging project. This revised WQC includes the following modifications to 23-WQC-0012:

- 1) Dredging in navigational channel, turning basin, and berth areas from a depth of 27.5 feet (2023 work description) to 30 feet MLLW.
- 2) Dredging along Pier 3/future dry dock area from a depth up to 34.5 feet (2023 work description) to a depth of 45 feet MLLW.
- 3) Expansion of the proposed dredging limits from just south of the I-695 Bascule bridge to under and just north of the Bascule bridge.

The borings will be advanced using hollow-stem augers (up to 12 inches in diameter), direct pushing, or vibratory coring. Boreholes will be advanced up to 100 feet below the mudline for geotechnical purposes. Soil cuttings from all testing will be properly disposed of. Field testing will consist of standard penetration testing, cone penetration testing, dilatometer testing, direct-push sampling, vane shear testing, and collection of Shelby tubes. Samples from the drilling program will be taken to a geotechnical laboratory for physical and chemical testing.

This Water Quality Certification (Certification) is issued under authority of Section 401 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act and its Amendments, Title 9, Subtitle 3 of the Environment Article, and Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) 26.08.02.10. The Maryland Department of the Environment (Department) has determined from a review of the request application file that the project activities described in the above will not violate Maryland's water quality standards, provided that the following conditions are satisfied.

The Administration satisfied statutory and regulatory public notice requirements by placing this WQC on Public Notice from November 1 to November 15 on the Maryland Department of the Environment's Public Notice webpage.

The Certification Holder shall comply with the following conditions:

### **SPECIAL CONDITIONS**

1. Dredging activities are prohibited from February 15th through June 15th of any year to protect spawning fish.
2. Dredging may not exceed the scope of this Certification in terms of authorized dredge area, volume of material, and authorized depths. The Certification Holder shall:
  - a. Comply with all applicable conditions of this Certification.
  - b. Submit a detailed dredged material disposal plan to be approved by the Water and Science Administration, Tidal Wetlands Division prior to the start of dredging.
  - c. Notify and receive approval from the Water and Science Administration, Compliance Program a minimum of 10 days prior to the start of each maintenance dredging operation.
3. The Certification Holder shall submit an application for modification of the Certification to MDE for approval of any deviations not authorized within this Certification.
4. Conduct a post-dredge bathymetric survey and forward to the Water and Science Administration,

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Regulatory and Customer Service Division within 45 days after the termination of dredging operations and submit documentation to the Corps that the Certification Holder has satisfied the Departments requirements.

5. Transport all dredged material in watertight trucks. No dredged material shall be discharged onto the roadways of the State.
6. If work is not conducted by the Certification Holder, all work performed under this Water Quality Certification shall be conducted by a marine contractor licensed by the Marine Contractors Licensing Board (MCLB) in accordance with Title 17 of the Environment Article of Annotated Code of Maryland. Licensing by MCLB shall occur prior to the beginning of dredging activities. A list of licensed marine contractors may be obtained by contacting the MCLB at 410-537- 3249, by e-mail at MDE.MCLB@maryland.gov or by accessing the Maryland Department of the Environment, Environmental Boards webpage.
7. Dredged material pipelines shall be installed, marked and maintained in accordance with all requirements for navigational safety. Dredge material pipelines and associated equipment shall be removed as soon as practicable, upon completion of activities authorized under this Certification.
8. In the event of any inadvertent returns resulting from failure of any dredge material pipeline and associated equipment, the Certification Holder shall cease operations immediately and shall:
  - a) Take steps to stop all dredged material from entering State waters; and
  - b) Notify the Compliance Program immediately at 410-537-3510.
8. Dredged material shall only be disposed of at the dredge disposal site approved by this Certification. The Certification Holder shall submit an application for modification of the Certification to MDE for approval of any dredge disposal site not authorized within the Certification.

### **GENERAL CONDITIONS**

1. Avoid conducting activities that interfere with the movement of aquatic life, fish, or other wildlife.
2. Implement and comply with all final approved plans, permits, and modifications that are approved by the State and/or the Corps, as applicable. The approved plans, permits and modifications by MDE and/or the Corps are incorporated by reference into this Certification.
3. Limit any disturbance of the substrate to the authorized area and prevent sediment transport into adjacent State waters.
4. Avoid placing stockpiles of any material in Waters of the U.S. or waters of the state, unless otherwise authorized by the approving authority.
5. Obtain any other authorizations or approvals that the Department requires, including General Permits, and comply with all conditions of such authorizations or approvals.
6. Obtain any required authorizations or approvals from other State, federal, or local agencies.

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7. Refrain from causing any injury to private property, invasion of rights, or infringement of federal, State, or local laws or regulations.
8. Inspection and entry. The Certification Holder shall allow the Department, or an authorized representative, upon the presentation of credentials and other documents as may be required by law, to:
  - a. Enter upon the Certification Holder's premises where a certified activity or operation is located or conducted, or where records must be kept under the conditions of this Certification;
  - b. Have access to and copy, at reasonable times, any records that must be kept under the conditions of this Certification;
  - c. Inspect at reasonable times any facilities, equipment (including monitoring and control equipment), practices, or operations regulated or required under this Certification; and
  - d. Sample or monitor at reasonable times, for the purposes of assuring compliance or as otherwise authorized by the Department, any substances or parameters at any location.
  - e. Allow the Department's authorized representatives access to the Project during normal business hours to conduct inspections and evaluations of operations and records to verify compliance with this Certification.

### **STATEMENTS OF NECESSITY AND CITATIONS**

1. Statement of Necessity for Special Condition 1: The time of year restriction is necessary to maintain the designated use- support of estuarine and marine aquatic life and shellfish harvesting.  
  
Citation: Federal and state laws which authorize this condition include but are not limited to: COMAR: 26.08.02.02B(1)(d); 26.08.02.02B(3); COMAR 26.08.02.02-1
2. Statement of Necessity for Special Conditions 2 & 3: The limits on the scope of dredging are necessary to ensure that no discharges would violate water quality standards and designated uses for water clarity, turbidity, growth and propagation of fish, other aquatic life, and wildlife; and water contact recreation  
  
Citations: COMAR 26.08.02.02B(1)(d); COMAR 26.08.02.02B(3); COMAR 26.08.02.03B; 33 U.S.C. § 1341(a), (b), & (d); 33 U.S.C. § 1251(b); 33 U.S.C. § 1370; Md. Ann. Code, Env. Article, Title 1, Subtitles 3 and 4; Md. Ann. Code, Md. Ann. Code, Env. Article, Title 9, Subtitle 3; Md. Ann. Code, Env. Article, Title 16; COMAR 26.08; COMAR 26.08.02.10G(3); COMAR 26.24
3. Statement of Necessity for Special Condition 4: The condition is necessary to ensure that dredging results in water depths which are appropriate to support designated uses of fishing and water contact recreation and propagation of fish, other aquatic life and wildlife; and ensure that no discharges are unsightly, create a nuisance, change to an objectionable color or interferes with designated uses.  
  
Citations: COMAR 26.08.02.01B(2); COMAR 26.08.02.02B(1); 26.08.02.02B(3); COMAR 26.08.02.03B

4. Statement of Necessity for Special Conditions 4 & 7: Unauthorized discharges may enter regulated waters as result of activity or structural failure. The condition is necessary to ensure that water quality standards are met under unique circumstances for inadvertent discharges and that designated uses of waters are maintained. Releases of significant amounts of sediment can impact aquatic environments and if unchecked can alter them to an uninhabitable state.

Citation: Federal and state laws that authorize this condition include but are not limited to: 33 U.S.C. § 1341(a), (b), & (d); 33 U.S.C. § 1251(b); 33 U.S.C. § 1370; Md. Ann. Code, Env. Article, Title 1, Subtitles 3 & 4; Md. Ann. Code, Env. Article, Title 9, Subtitle 3; Md. Ann. Code, Env. Article, Title 9, Subtitle 3; Md. Ann. Code, Env. Article, Title 5, Subtitles 5 and 9; Md. Ann. Code, Env. Article, Title 9, Subtitle 3; Md. Ann. Code, Env. Article, Title 16; COMAR 26.08; COMAR 26.08.02.10G(3); COMAR 26.17.04; COMAR 26.23; COMAR 26.24; COMAR 26.23.02.06, COMAR 26.08, COMAR 26.08.02.10E; COMAR 26.08.02.09C(3); COMAR 26.08.02.03B(1)(b); COMAR 26.08.02.03B(2); COMAR 26.08.02.03-3; COMAR 26.08.02.02B(2); COMAR 26.08.02.02B(4); COMAR 26.08.02.02B(6); COMAR 26.08.02.02B(8)

5. Statement of Necessity for Special Condition 5: Expertise for conducting certain activities is required to ensure that there is no violation of water quality standards nor interference with designated uses. This condition is necessary to ensure that discharges will be conducted in a manner which does not violate water quality criteria nor interfere with designated uses.

Citation: COMAR 26.08.02.02B(2)- B(4); COMAR 26.08 02.03B(2)(d) – (e ); COMAR 26.08.02.03B(1)(b); 26.08.02.03B(2); COMAR 23.02.04.04; COMAR 26.30.01.05

6. Statement of Necessity for Special Condition 6: The condition is necessary to ensure that the discharge does not interfere with navigational safety and designated uses for water contact recreation and fishing, nor create a nuisance.

Citation: COMAR 26.08.02.01B(1) and B(2); COMAR 26.08.02.03B(1)(a); COMAR 26.08.02.03B(2)(d)

7. Statement of Necessity for Special Condition 8: This condition is necessary to clarify the scope of this certification to ensure compliance with water quality regulations, without limiting restrictions through other requirements that also affect water quality.

Citation: Federal and state laws which authorize this condition include but are not limited to: 33 U.S.C. § 1341(a), (b), & (d); 33 U.S.C. § 1251(b); 33 U.S.C. § 1370; Md. Ann. Code, Env. Article, Title 1, Subtitles 3 and 4; Md. Ann. Code, Env. Article, Title 5, Subtitles 5 and 9; Md. Ann. Code, Env. Article, Title 9, Subtitle 3; Md. Ann. Code, Env. Article, Title 16; COMAR 26.08, COMAR 26.08.02.10E; COMAR 26.23.02.06; COMAR 26.17.04; COMAR 26.23; COMAR 26.24; COMAR 26.24.03.03

8. Statement of Necessity for General Conditions 1, 2, 3, 4: The condition is necessary to ensure that water quality standards are met and designated uses are maintained.

Citations: Federal and state laws which authorize this condition include but are not limited to: 33 U.S.C. § 1341(a), (b), & (d); 33 U.S.C. § 1251(b); 33 U.S.C. § 1370; Md. Ann. Code, Env. Article, Title 1, Subtitles 3 and 4; Md. Ann. Code, Env. Article, Title 5, Subtitles 5 and 9; Md. Ann. Code, Env.

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Article, Title 9, Subtitle 3; Md. Ann. Code, Env. Article, Title 16; COMAR 26.08; COMAR 26.08.02.10G(3); COMAR 26.23.02.06; COMAR 26.17.01; COMAR 26.23; COMAR 26.24

9. Statement of Necessity for General Conditions 5, 6: Fill or construction material within or adjacent to regulated resources may cause discharges resulting in turbidity in excess of water quality standards and interfere with designated uses of growth and propagation of fish, other aquatic life, wildlife; and other designated uses; and fail to meet general water quality criteria that waters not be polluted by substances in amounts sufficient to be unsightly or create a nuisance.

Citations: 26.08.02.03B(1)-B(2); COMAR 26.23; COMAR 26.24; COMAR 26.17.04

10. Statement of Necessity for General Condition 7, 8: Conditions of certification involve precise actions to comply with water quality standards. Site inspection may be necessary to ensure that limits, methods, and other requirements are met to ensure that water quality standards are met and designated uses are maintained.

Citations: Federal and state laws that authorize this condition include but are not limited to: 33 U.S.C. § 1341(a), (b), & (d); 33 U.S.C. § 1251(b); 33 U.S.C. § 1370; Md. Ann. Code, Env. Article, Title 1, Subtitles 3 and 4; Md. Ann. Code, Env. Article, Title 5, Subtitles 5 and 9; Md. Ann. Code, Env. Article, Title 9, Subtitle 3; Md. Ann. Code, Env. Article, Title 16; COMAR 26.08; COMAR 26.23.02.06; COMAR 26.23; COMAR 26.24; COMAR 26.17.04

This Certification is valid for the Project identified herein and the associated federal navigation project. Failure to comply with these conditions may subject the Certification Holder to criminal and/or civil penalties or other enforcement action in accordance with applicable law.

CERTIFICATION APPROVED:



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Heather Nelson, Program Manager  
Wetlands and Waterways Protection Program  
Water and Science Administration

Effective Date: December 2, 2025

cc: WSA Inspection & Compliance Program